

Remarks

Claims 1 and 3-13 were previously pending in the application. In the present response, Claims 5, 7, and 11 have been canceled. Accordingly, after entry of the response Claims 1, 3-4, 6,8-10, 12, and 13 will be pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Preliminary, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that dependent Claims 7, 8, 11, and 12 would be allowable if rewritten independent form and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moon (U.S. Patent No. 2004/0180680).

Of the above-referenced claims, Claim 1 is independent. Accordingly, once allowability of these claims is established, all claims depending therefrom are likewise allowable.

As indicated above, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the indicated allowable subject matter of Claim 7 and further the subject matter of Claim 5.

As such, Applicants submit that Claim 1 distinguishes over Moon and is now an allowable claim.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit independent Claim 1, and all claims depending therefrom are patentable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon, in view of Nitta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,178), herein referred to as “Nitta”.

Claim 4, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon, in view of Nitta, and Kitahara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,847,377), herein referred to as “Kitahara”.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nitta, in view of Moon.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nitta, in view of Moon, and Kitahara.

Of the above-referenced claims, Claim 9 is independent. Accordingly, once allowability of that claim is established, all claims depending therefrom are likewise allowable.

As indicated above, Claim 9 has been amended to include the indicated allowable subject matter of Claim 11.

As such, Applicants submit that Claim 9 distinguishes over Moon, Nitta, and Kitahara alone or in combination, and is now an allowable claim.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit independent Claim 9, and all claims depending therefrom are patentable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Authorization is given to charge any fees due or credit any overpayments in regard to this communication to deposit account 50-5029. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (408) 331-1682 is welcomed and encouraged.

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